



“In Their World...  
On Their Terms...”

PHOTO: BRITINI HILL

## My Highlights over 37 years of Fieldwork

I often get asked in interviews to describe some of the most amazing things I have seen over the years. Of course, there are many stories and some of you long-haulers were probably there with me. Some are about personal interactions with the dolphins. Others are about the insights and ah-ha moments when observing a missing piece of the puzzle. And some are about hair-raising weather and storms at sea: they make great stories but are sometimes fine lines between life and death.

The story I often tell is that of Paint, a female spotted dolphin,

and her first calf Brush. Paint was a dolphin from the northern cluster of Little Bahama Bank (LBB) dolphins. Most dolphins greet us by swimming circles around us and emitting their signature whistle. That’s the typical greeting if they know us, however, Paint was always different with me. To greet me, Paint dove down in front of me and hung vertically in the water, looking up with her eyes on the side of her head. So, naturally I thought the polite thing to do was to mimic her. That is what we would do to greet each other; Paint first, then me. As the years went by Paint finally

became pregnant and had her first calf Brush. One day I was swimming behind Paint with her new little calf, and Paint did her typical greeting, diving vertically. I of course mimicked her and dove vertically and hung in the water column with her. I resurfaced to catch my breath and as Paint stationed back in front of me with her calf, little Brush then dove down and hung vertically. Wow, I thought! Is Paint teaching her calf how to greet me in her unique way? Quickly I dove down and hung in the water with little Brush. And to this day Brush will often greet me this way, even though

she herself is a grandmother. This should have been my first hint of the strong influence of personality and uniqueness that can manifest in every mammal society. It was just so striking, and such a privilege to be remembered as an individual to the dolphins.

Over the decades with the dolphins, there are two very important moments I experienced that I would like to share.

First, in my very early years, I recall jumping in some very murky water and seeing some spotted dolphins head-to-head with some bottlenose dolphins  
(continued on page 3)



PHOTO: WILD DOLPHIN PROJECT



PHOTO: LAH MCPHERSON

Left: Paint hanging vertically like she would when greeting Dr. Herzog. Right: A group of young males that could be the start of a young coalition.

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



**I**t is my privilege to continue to serve as President of The Wild Dolphin Project's Board of Directors and to enjoy a front row seat as Dr. Herzing and her team break new ground in the study of Atlantic Spotted Dolphins "In Their World... On Their Terms."

At the end of each field season, when things finally start to settle down from a summer at sea, we can take some time to reflect upon our achievements and breakthroughs. During the 2020 field season, we were not exempt from the significant setbacks experienced by many businesses, individuals and non-profits as a result of Covid-19. We had to cut the season short and missed out on much of our work. In 2021, however, we had a good season with productive days out at sea.

After having to take a Covid-break for much of last summer, we were able to partially resume our ongoing projects. After several challenging years, continuous improvements and extensive testing of each new iteration, the underwater wearable computer we call Cetacean Hearing Augmentation Telemetry (C.H.A.T.) continues to evolve to incorporate what we learn each season. This device will allow us to make further strides into the complex world of dolphin communication. We will continue to test and improve the device in the off-season and will be ready to put it into full action in the

2022 field season. I continue to be excited to see what insights we will be able to gain through the use of this new technology in 2022 and beyond.

Due to the uncertainty of the 2021 field season, we made the decision early on to suspend the 24/7 Passive Acoustic Monitoring (P.A.M.) project. We remain excited by its possibilities and plan to revive this project once we have more certainty with regard to our ability to travel to our study area. This is a relatively new tool, first deployed during the 2018 field season, which allows us to listen 24/7 and learn about the acoustics of the dolphins that are resident to that area. The 2018 & 2019 deployments yielded terrific results and we look forward to increasing the number of devices and consequently the coverage area in 2022.

Overall, the 2021 field season was a success. Our most valuable tool, the R/V Stenella, performed flawlessly during her 37th season at sea. This is what allows us to do our work. We utilized the extended downtime during the shortened 2020 season to make some much-needed improvements and updates, and it made a huge difference in 2021. We were able to upgrade some of her most vital systems, navigation equipment and some of the comforts that make life at sea possible for the team.

I would like to thank the team for everything they do, not just during our field season, but throughout the year. It is their work that keeps The Wild Dolphin Project running.

I look forward to continued advancements in our research through technology and the commitment of our team in 2022 and hope to see you on one of our trips.

**Axel Stepan**

Board of Directors, President



Left: Dr. Herzing poised to enter the water. Right: Liam Groth, Cassie Rusche, Isabella Canepa, Tyler Hazelwood.



## Research Director's Report *from page 1*

amongst a cacophony of vocalizations. My passion is correlating sounds with behavior to better understand their communication system, so I was devastated with the poor visibility and disappointed that I might never see this interaction again; such a unique, interspecies interaction, and a fight in the wild. Well, luckily, I was wrong.

Over the next few years, we documented many interactions between the spotted dolphins and bottlenose dolphins. Turns out that these interactions are quite regular and normal. Although they often, and overtly, took the form of fights, we also observed interspecies play, foraging, babysitting, and mating. This type of interaction was very unexpected and continues to this day to provide us with more questions than answers. What are they fighting about? Is there a hierarchy to who fights whom? Do they understand each other's communication signals? If so, how much? All questions that my graduate students have worked hard to answer over the years.

Then there were the observations of how young dolphins learn and develop into fully fledged adults. At first glance, dolphin play might look frivolous and wasteful. But like other social mammals, often play functions to help young squirts test and learn social rules without endangering themselves or their peers. In the early 1990's I had already observed a lot of adult male spotted dolphin fighting, so I knew a lot of their body signals and vocalizations. Coalitions of adult males acted in synchrony and coordinated not only their body motions but also their vocalizations. They looked like a well-oiled machine. As I looked closer at small groups of juvenile male spotted dolphins, I began to notice that they were trying very hard to coordinate their movements. Sometimes they were sloppy and missed the mark. Other times they would start synchronous movements. Then eventually they start rhythmically synching the timing of their little squawks. Soon they were a tight little

unit. Sometimes one dolphin just couldn't make the grade and was left out. Coalitions that started forming at their latter juvenile age, around 7 or 8, usually lasted through their adulthood. Of course, coalitions have many reasons to form. They coordinate chasing a female in estrus and monopolize her from other coalitions, they can chase away a shark as a coordinated unit, and they can take on the larger bottlenose dolphins, or each other, during aggression. So, when I first recognized that these juvenile dolphins were developing their adult behavior right in front of me, I was ecstatic. In biology, understanding the process and mechanism of something is often key to understanding the organism. In essence, dolphins have to learn, practice, fail and prevail, during their younger years, to become fully functional adult dolphins in their society.

There are so many stories about weather as it is our most challenging aspect of the work. Because we often work quite remotely from land (at least until the last few years), we depend on our sense of weather, the weather radio, and the time of



A coalition of male Atlantic spotted dolphins from the 1999 field season.

year. Weather is, quite simply put, very dynamic where we work. Early summer can be a time of waterspouts and squalls, as weather turns from spring to summer. By mid-summer we start to monitor the beginning of serious hurricane threats. Although they are usually more frequent in August and September, we have run from storms as early as July. Hurricane Katrina actually formed in the Bahamas over Nassau, overnight, causing us to go right back to Florida after we had arrived that day in the Bahamas. Katrina weakly brushed Florida then went into the Gulf of Mexico to become a large and fierce storm that devastated the New Orleans area. Hurricane Floyd was coming right for Florida one year and deflected off the Bahamas in time (as did Hurricane Dorian, the recent monster). We don't take chances with hurricanes and we give ourselves plenty of time to return to Florida to secure homes and boats. It's the other little stuff, big thunderstorms with lightning, sudden squalls that turn the sea into white-out conditions and large waves in a matter of minutes, that challenge us almost every day. One day it can be calm and glassy, and the next morning you can wake up to wind and waves...lured unknowingly by the gentle seas when you anchor.

**Dr. Denise Herzing**  
Research Director & Founder



R/V Stenella anchored on a calm and glassy sea.

# 2021 FIELD SEASON IN REVIEW

We were all anxious to get back out in the field following an almost non-existent 2020 field season due to COVID-19. As with any season, 2021 had its obstacles so we did not get a full season. However, we did gather basic life history information and saw plenty of dolphins!

We saw a total of 106 individual dolphins from both the Great Bahama Bank (GBB) and the Little Bahama Bank (LBB) groups. We observed 65 GBB individuals, which is 86% of the GBB population, and 41 LBB individuals, which is 36% of the LBB population. This summer we did not get up to LBB, so all of the LBB individuals we encountered were ones that moved down to GBB. This season we did not have any sightings of new LBB individuals who had moved down, but more may continue to trickle down over the next couple of years.

As always, we were excited to see new calves at the start of the season, especially because we missed a lot of the animals last year due to so little field time. As a result, we had calves from two summers to figure out! The calves can be difficult to identify since they don't have any spots until about three years old. That's why it's important for us to observe the calves as soon as we can because it helps us figure out who the mother is, since they stick so close to their moms early on.

This summer we had eight new calves; five LBB calves and three GBB calves. Based on the size of the calves, three of the five LBB calves were actually ones that we missed from the 2020 field season. Out of the eight calves, three were females and five were males. The three GBB calves were actually the offspring of the three females (Duchess, Arugula, Polaris) that we saw VERY pregnant during

our November trip last year. Among the eight calves, we had three more to add to our fourth generation of dolphins; all born to LBB moms! Nesta, a female, is Nereide's calf. We have known Nereide since 2009 and Nesta is her first calf. Bullet, a male, is Bijyo's calf. We have known Bijyo since 2007 and Bullet is also her first calf. Lastly Basmati, another female calf, is Burgundy's who we have known since 2000. Burgundy is also the mom of Bueno, our first fourth generation calf. And this summer, we saw a total of 18 females who were pregnant; nine LBB females and nine GBB females. I am guessing we are going to have even more calves next season!

In regards to the behaviors we observed this summer, it was juvenile heavy. The juveniles were very playful and curious but we also observed them practicing courtship and aggression. The younger animals need to practice certain behaviors because they need to learn. Dolphins are not born with all the necessary social skills they will need throughout their lifetime, so they play and practice to learn what to do.

We saw some adult behavior such as interspecies aggression, courtship, and babysitting, but mostly they were in big traveling groups. The interspecies aggressive encounter was a large group of about 30 spotted dolphins and 6 bottlenose dolphins. It was in murky green water, but they were very vocal and they performed a lot of aggressive behaviors such as open mouth displays, head to head stances, and they often charged into one another.

We did have one interesting encounter with Doc, a fused male spotted dolphin. We saw a dolphin doing leaps and cartwheels in the distance so we went over to investigate. Doc was by himself and he would repeatedly cartwheel

out of the water and slam back down. We didn't know if he got separated from the group and was trying to communicate with the others through splashing or what, but it was odd. We could also see a fresh wound on his right side. Dr. Herzing and I slipped into the water to try and get some underwater footage and he was rotating his head and hanging vertically in the water column. Dolphins will often do this behavior while scanning the bottom for fish or for just listening. We left him after a while and made a note to keep an eye out for him during the rest of the season. It took a little bit for us to find him again, but Doc was re-sighted multiple times after the incident and seems to be doing well.

Doc wasn't the only dolphin who received a new wound this summer. We had 19 dolphins with mentionable wounds; some from shark bites, others from human disturbances such as boat propellers and fishing line, while one injury in particular may have come from an Orca. Depending on where Orcas live, some of them prey on marine mammals including cetaceans. According to Dunn and Claridge (2013), the Orcas who live around The Bahamas have been sighted preying on Atlantic spotted dolphins. Also in the paper by Dunn and Claridge (2013), there is a map with all the Orca sightings from 1913-2011, and one of the sighting dots looks like it is right over Bimini. The wound we believe could be from an Orca attack was on a bottlenose dolphin and not an Atlantic spotted dolphin. But the spacing between the teeth marks are too large to be from another bottlenose dolphin. If this wound is not from an Orca, another possibility could be a False Killer Whale since these animals are also in Bahamian waters. Aside from the wound on the bottlenose



PHOTO: BRITINI HILL



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PHOTOS: LIAH MCPHERSON

Top: Research Assistant, Cassie Rusche, filming dolphin behavior. Bottom Left and Right: The wound on the bottlenose dolphin that we think is from a possible Orca attack.



dolphin, we also observed odd behavior from the Atlantic spotted dolphins during that same trip and the following trip. They seemed to be harder to find, abnormally quiet, and barely putting their dorsal fins out of the water when they would come up to breathe. Dr. Herzing, Founder and Director of the WDP, says these behaviors are indicative of a predator in the area.

Another wound worth mentioning was on a calf we call Nugget. Nugget was born in the months after our 2018 summer season to mom Nassau. We first saw him in 2019 and he was a healthy calf. Unfortunately we did not see him in 2020, but when we first saw him this summer he was missing his right eye. He was sticking close to mom even though he should be getting to the age where he should be more independent. Also, when we would swim up to his right side he would either go inverted so his left eye faced us, or he and mom would turn around so their left side was toward us. It will be interesting to see how Nugget copes with his injury and if he will survive. When we last saw him, he did not look emaciated nor did the injury seem to affect his

swimming. Back in 1994, we had an adult female lose her right eye as well. She lived until 2002, and Dr. Herzing said she would also go inverted or adjust her body so that her left side was facing the humans. Hedley was an adult when she lost her eye but since Nugget has a very good mom, Nassau, we hope he will figure it out with her help and we will be able to continue to monitor him for a very long time to come.

Thank you to everyone who was able to join us this summer! We weren't able to have a full season, but for those who were able to join us we had a mix of people. We had interns, board members, and people passionate about the ocean. We hope you all had as much fun as we did and learned some fun dolphin facts along the way. Remember if you want to join us next year, we open our schedule up to members in December and everyone else in January. We are already hard at work in the office gearing up for next season, it will be here before we know it!

Until next time,  
**Cassie Volker-Rusche**  
Research Assistant



PHOTO: CASSIE RUSCHE



PHOTO: BRITTINI HILL

Top: Doc leaping out of the water. Bottom: Nugget, Nassau's calf, has lost his right eye.

## SUMMER FIELD RESEARCH

# 2022 BAHAMAS TRIPS



We are looking forward to continuing our work studying and observing Atlantic spotted and bottlenose dolphins next summer, which will be our 38th consecutive year in the field! We invite you to join us aboard Research Vessel, Stenella. Learn about the natural behavior and lives of dolphins in the wild. All trips leave from West Palm Beach, Florida on a Tuesday morning and return 9 days later on Wednesday afternoon. A full-time cook is aboard ensuring everyone is well fed and hydrated as some dolphin encounters can be lengthy and can happen multiple times throughout the day.

Are you ready to join us?  
Signing up is easy!

To be added to the 2022 trip inquiry list, email your contact information as listed below to our trip coordinator.

- Full Name
- Email address
- Phone number
- Traveling from (State or Country)
- Please indicate when you would be available to join us (our field season spans from May until September)
- Are you joining as an adult passenger or applying for the internship program?

As a perk for WDP members, they receive the first notification and ability to sign-up in December. Then, in January, those on the inquiry list will be notified of the open spots and the remaining availability will also be posted online for the general public to sign up.

Students currently enrolled in high school or college with an interest in marine biology can participate in our internship program. Include documentation that you are currently a student (i.e. current class schedule, student ID card,

unofficial transcript, etc.) with your initial email. Intern responsibilities are to conduct daily dolphin watches on the bridge, assist the research team with logging data, underwater photography and photo identification processing. An assignment will be given to interns to complete prior to joining us in the field.

wilddolphinproject.org/participate/bahamas-trip



wilddolphinproject.org/participate/student-internship-opportunities



## 2022 FIELD SEASON SCHEDULE

Trip #1 May

Trip #2 May

Trip #3 June

Trip #4 June

Trip #5 July

Trip #6 July

Trip #7 August

Trip #8 August

Trip #9 September

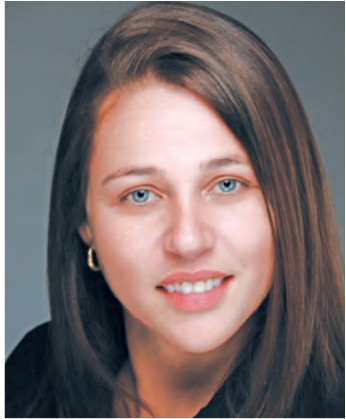
Dates to be Announced

**Melissa Infante**

Wild Dolphin Project,  
Trip Coordinator  
561.575.5660

wdtrips@wilddolphinproject.org

## FIELD REPORT



Barbara Whiteside

I am so grateful for the Wild Dolphin Project. I always wanted to be a Marine Biologist, but life's path didn't take me in that direction. However, I discovered that this project takes passengers out to observe wild dolphins and I was excited to give it a try! I reached out inquiring about the trips back in 2019, but at first they were fully booked so I was put on the waiting list. Luckily for me, someone couldn't make their trip and I got the call! My journey to get out with the Wild Dolphin Project was a little bumpy at first. In 2019 I made it on the boat, out to The Bahamas, cleared customs, but only had a half a day of dolphin encounters due to Hurricane Dorian. Captain Brad and Dr.

Herzing talked to us as a group early on about Hurricane Dorian looming out in the Atlantic. We all decided it was worth a try to go since there was a possibility the storm could taper off or take a turn in another direction. Even though we only had 4-6 hours to look for dolphins, we had an encounter that I believe lasted over an hour and we observed behaviors such as aggression and mating. It was that encounter that I remember making eye contact for the first time underwater with a wild dolphin. I don't know which dolphin it was, but I believe it was a more mature adult because of its size and number of spots. I was observing the younger dolphins' behavior while this older dolphin was observing me. There were no words to describe the connection that I felt. Maybe it's their level of intelligence, their family structure, or just simply their curiosity that makes you feel like they are studying you too. Sadly, because of Hurricane Dorian, this was my last encounter of the trip, as we had to depart back to the United States. I was impressed with the navigation skills, confidence, and the willingness of the crew to use their skills and experience to give the passengers an adventure to

remember in such a short time, and all I can say is...Mission Accomplished!

I was intent on making up my trip during the 2020 field season. Everything was going according to plan until The Bahamas decided that they wanted to limit exposure due to COVID-19, and thus my trip was cancelled. This made me sad, however I was determined to get a full trip in and it gave me something to look forward to in 2021.

The third time's a charm because this summer I was able to accomplish the entire trip with no issues! This trip was much different because we had more time to get to know the other passengers. We played games, snorkeled, went on dolphin watch, and shared every meal together. I really enjoyed the experience and I think what was most memorable for me was similar to the first trip, and that is how much the crew went out of their way to give us such a great adventure. I have nothing but respect for this organization and I hope to come back every year and be a passenger to show my support and to relive this dream! When I tell people about the trip they think it's so cool and want to do it as well. Another aspect of the trip that I enjoyed was the ability to disconnect. There is international phone service, however I decided against it. We did not go on land the entire

trip so the serenity and sounds of nature were the main focus. During down time, I journaled, read, and listened to podcasts on my phone. In the mornings, I committed to watching the sunrise while doing my stretches. I made it a point to watch every sunset as well, and these beautiful images will forever be in my memories. This was an unexpected recharge that I didn't know I needed.

The encounters on this trip were different, maybe because it was early in the season but we saw a ton of mothers with their calves. They swam right up to the boat as if they were saying "Look what we did!". Maybe they were showing their offspring the humans and letting their calves know we were safe to be around. I noticed that the dolphins that didn't have calves stayed off on the periphery as if they were waiting for the mothers and calves to come back and join the group once they were done showing their calves to the funny humans. I also witnessed interactions between the dolphins and the research assistants, Cassie and Brittini. The dolphins passed sargassum back and forth between themselves and the research assistants in a game of keep away. Seeing this up close gave me a new perspective on just how tactile dolphins can be. They carried the sargassum on their rostrum and passed it down to their pectoral fins and sometimes they had it on their dorsal fins and passed it down to their flukes. I never knew their senses were strong enough to feel the sargassum and know where it is at all times on their body.

I also saw the dolphins show affection towards each other by rubbing their pectoral fins against one another; basically, the equivalent of humans holding hands. I talked to Cassie about this and if I recall right, she said that this is a form of bonding and can be seen between all kinds of dolphin pairs: moms and calves, juvenile and adult friends, and during reconciliation after a fight or discipline. I think that is so cool and I look forward to observing this behavior again and can't wait to find out what I will observe next year!

Barbara Whiteside



PHOTO: LIAM GROTH



PHOTO: BRITTINI HILL



PHOTO: BRITTINI HILL

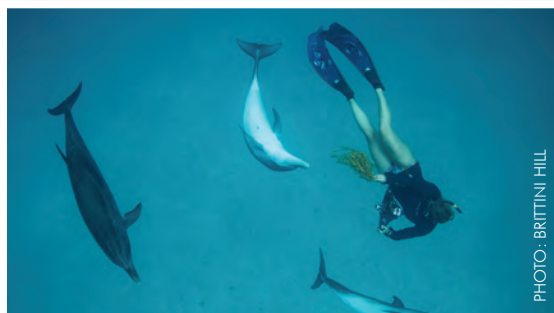


PHOTO: BRITTINI HILL

Top Left: Passenger Barbara Whiteside observing a male dolphin in the Speckled age class, named Monkey. Top Right: A fused female, Regatta, babysitting a calf named Pantera. Bottom Left: A female dolphin named Arugula and her male calf, Aspen. Bottom Right: Playful dolphins passing sargassum between themselves and Research Assistant, Cassie Rusche, in a game of "keep away".



## CAPTAIN'S CORNER

Welcome back Wild Dolphin Project family. This is the 2021 edition of the Captain's corner. It was so good to be back out on the water. Our season was full of adventure, great guests, and some incredibly unique encounters with nature. The boat ran well and the seas, well, they tolerated us....it was a windy year.

With our last field season being derailed by the global pandemic, the entire crew was eager for this season to get underway. It was an action packed season to say the least. Our first unique encounter came in the form of a Bull Cow pair of mahi mahi (*Coryphaena hippurus*) feeding in shallow water on the bank. Mahi are a pelagic species, meaning they roam open waters. They are most commonly found in the deep offshore waters of the gulfstream but this pair of fish, easily weighing 30lbs each, must have gotten lost following flying fish into the shallow clear waters of the bank. They were lit up with beautiful colors of fluorescent greens and neon blue tipped pectoral fins. As the flying fish got pushed off our bow, the mahi came in and fed on them, putting on an impressive show for everyone on board. We watched in awe for

a while until they finally swam off. Afterwards, I found myself thinking how unusual that was and how lucky we were to cross paths with those fish.

A few weeks later, we finally experienced a calm day. We were crossing our study site when suddenly in the starboard window we saw 6 dark large figures head our way. A few people started shouting "DOLPHIN" but they weren't coming up for air and their color appeared to be too dark to be dolphins. As they approached, it hit me that these were giant Atlantic bluefin tuna fish (*Thunnus thynnus*) crossing the bank in 20' of water. I yelled "TUNAS"!!! They passed by us quickly, swimming in a tight formation. So we turned the boat around as quickly as possible to catch another glimpse of them. I knew this was a once in a lifetime sighting! The Atlantic bluefin tuna are the largest and most endangered species of bluefin tuna. Their population is so severely depleted, they estimate only 3.3 percent of their unfished levels are left. So not only are bluefin tuna fish critically endangered, it is even rarer to see them crossing the bank in 20' of crystal clear water.

Compared to the Mahi these fish were observed not outside of their typical habitat, they

were traveling along a historical migration route. Back in the Hemmingway days, it was very common to see large schools of giant bluefin crossing the bank. But today it is almost unheard of and the large schools of fish have been reduced to individuals. Understanding how uncommon this moment was, I was determined to come across them one more time. So we turned around and headed in the direction they seemed to be going as they crossed our bow. When we got turned around we started scanning, and I saw a large dark figure 150 yards up off the starboard bow. We headed that way thinking one of the tunas was at the surface. As we pulled up to this dark shape to everyone's surprise it turned out to be a large manta ray (*Mobula alfredi*) cruising the surface. This was normally a sighting that would excite me and we would stop to observe the animal, but my mind was stuck on seeing those tunas one more time. So we pushed on, leaving the manta ray behind us. We stuck to the direction they were headed in and sure enough, we came upon them again. They were swimming almost 8 knots and as we approached alongside them, they did a synchronized turn together and swam off. It was an incredible sight to see, truly a once in a lifetime experience.

After the bluefin tunas had left, we turned the vessel around

to see if we could cross paths with the majestic manta one more time. Sure enough we were able to find the manta ray and we observed this giant feeding along the surface. It was incredible. Yet again, I found myself standing there thinking how incredibly lucky we were, and what an incredible place the bank is.

I am so lucky to get a chance to not only observe the dolphins in this unique environment, but also see all of the amazing surprises the bank holds. I can't wait until next season to see what we find. I hope you come and join us for an adventure.

A special thanks to all my crew and home base support, I couldn't do it without y'all. Until next year, this is Captain Brad signing off.

**Brad Ruda**  
Captain



PHOTO: BRITTINI HILL



PHOTO: LAM GROTH



PHOTO: BETHANY AUGIERE

Top Right: Captain Brad dives down with some sargassum during a playful encounter with some juvenile spotted dolphins. Bottom Left: Manta ray observed on the bank. Bottom Right: Captain Brad on the bow of R/V Stenella.

## MEET THE TEAM

**S**cience and conservation writer and WDP research assistant for many years, Bethany Augliere is now our research associate, photographer, social media wiz, blog writer, and more. She recently sat down to chat with our team. Over the coming year, she'll interview board members to find out how they came to be a vital part of the project.

Here are excerpts from Bethany's blogs in the "Meet the Team" series. You can find the interviews in their entirety on our website. [www.wilddolphinproject.org/media/blog/Interviews](http://www.wilddolphinproject.org/media/blog/Interviews) and blogs written by Bethany Augliere. Follow her work here: <https://www.bethanyaugliere.com/>

Edited for newsletter by Melissa Infante.

### Captain, Brad Ruda

Brad grew up in Florida and always loved the water and being outside. He spent his days boating, fishing, camping and canoeing. After high school, Brad began working as a dockhand at the same marina where we dock our Research Vessel, Stenella. He regularly helped out our then captain in the hopes of one day getting a job. In 2015, that dream came true when he was offered a position as first mate. Now, he's the captain.

#### What's it like being the captain of a research vessel?

Being the captain of such an iconic boat has been nothing short of an incredible experience. There isn't a marina I've visited where someone hasn't said "I know that boat from way back when" and it always makes me feel proud and humble to be trusted with a boat that has so much history! Also, the job itself is much different being that it's a liveaboard passenger boat. In every other job I've had, the day ends at the marina. With this job, we are so far from land and home and help that it keeps you on your toes for anything at a moment's notice.

#### What's your favorite part of the job?

My favorite part would be how remote we are in the field. The waters are beautiful, the reefs are gorgeous and the noise of our busy lives back at home can't reach me. I love stepping outside after everyone's gone to sleep and sitting back and looking at the stars and hearing absolutely nothing!

#### What might surprise people about your job?

It's not all glamorous swimming with dolphins every day. Everyone is counting on me not only to drive the boat and find dolphins for research but also to make it safe! I think the real skill of this job is being able to handle all of that and not have the guests notice that I'm ever stressed or worried.

#### Have your views on science or conservation changed since being a part of this project?

I've always had a great respect for science and this work in particular. What I've realized now is how much worse the ocean

has gotten in my short time on the water and recognizing the importance of education and outreach, so that everyone else realizes the threats to our seas and we can move forward to help protect it.

### First Mate, Tyler Hazelwood

Originally from North Carolina, boats have been a part of Tyler's life. During college at the University of North Carolina Charlotte, Tyler started his scuba diving journey, earning his advanced open water certification. After graduating, he moved to Florida to continue his career as a waterman. Since then, he's earned a Master Scuba Diver Trainer level of instruction through PADI with over 600 completed dives, most of which were professional in their nature. He also began developing himself as an eco-instructor and created his very own adaptation of the Shark Conservation Specialty Course.

#### Can you describe your job with the project?

My job with the project is first mate, and also to be a friend to

my colleagues and at times, co-captain. I try to take on larger roles because I know I can handle more than what is thrown at me. I come from a technical and safety-orientated background as a scuba and emergency first responder instructor. My chief priority is ensuring people do not get hurt, the boat remains operational and we all come back with smiles on our faces. It's a personal mission of mine to make sure all things are orderly on the boat as that's my method for observing and detecting any potential hazards.

#### What was your first research expedition like?

My first trip was very exciting. I not only got to find my footing on this new boat, but was able to discover the rhythms of everyone else. I had zero idea of what to expect on a science-based excursion and so I purposefully left myself open to all the new and wonderful encounters. It happened like a dream. I fell right into a groove with the team and it's still to this day my all-time favorite trip.

#### What are some of the worst or hardest parts of the job?

Well... someone has to fix heads (marine toilets) when they break, right? So, that's definitely top of the list for me on "less than glamorous", but we make a laugh of it and it gets easier the more times you do it. And honestly, it's a part of what I signed up for.

#### How has being on the Stenella impacted your thoughts on science or research?

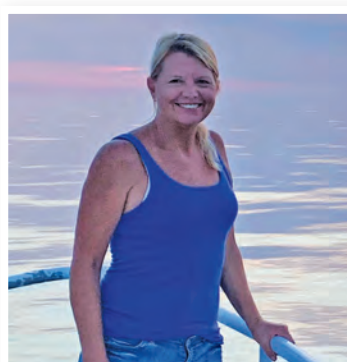
I consider myself a student



**BRAD RUDA**  
Captain



**TYLER HAZELWOOD**  
First Mate



**THERESA CARLSEN**  
Cook



**CASSIE RUSCHE**  
Research Assistant



when I'm aboard the research vessel *Stenella* and around the company of my colleagues. I'm always asking questions and I marvel at their ability to conduct research while underwater. Also, my heart lies with the ocean, so any further understanding of it is like getting to know a partner more intimately.

There's something to be said for being surrounded by pristine waters, having animal encounters that blow my mind and an experience that will live with me for all my days. It's truly a position of fortune and I want to cherish all of my days at sea with the project.

## Cook, Theresa Carlsen

It's no easy feat feeding 12 people 3 meals a day, plus snacks, on a moving vessel. In fact, Dr. Herzing often says the cook is the most important person on the boat. Most people might assume we're eating things like peanut butter and jelly every day but we're swimming and working hard, so nutritious healthy meals are critical. Theresa Carlsen learned about the project after reading Dr. Denise Herzing's book, *Dolphin Diaries*. The information she found motivated her to go back to school and earn her BA, during which she interned on a trip in 2014.

### What's the job like?

First, there's the daunting task of provisioning the boat for each expedition. It's an all day affair, making sure we grab every item off the checklist and then loading up the boat and stowing everything away. We've found ways to be creative with limited space.

During the trips, my day begins at

6:30am preparing breakfast for the crew and passengers and, of course, to consume my first cup of coffee to wake up for the day ahead. I prepare three meals per day, put out snacks at least twice a day and clean up after each. Lunch time varies, depending on how active we are with dolphin encounters. Dinner is usually at 8:00pm and may consist of a Taco Bar (a crew favorite), grill night, stir fry, or spaghetti, to name a few.

The most challenging aspects of the job are the intrinsic limitations of cooking on a boat. The appliances are different, the working space is small, and chopping and cooking on a gas stove while the boat is moving, sometimes in turbulent water, can require some balance and coordination.

Yet I'm always grateful to be on the water, observing wild dolphins and being surrounded by other marine-mammal lovers. Being near the food also means that that's where people congregate. I am often placed in ear shot of some amazing conversations, usually focused on one of my favorite topics—marine mammals, their behavior, and approaches to studying them in the wild noninvasively. It is not uncommon for me to be able to see the dolphins in the beautiful Bahamian water right from the galley window. There is no better office view in the world.

### What is one of your favorite moments?

It's difficult to pick just one but there was an interaction with two juvenile males named Monkey and Jammin. Monkey was in the group in the very first encounter I had as an intern in 2014. These two animals chose to play a game of "fetch" with seaweed for almost an hour and a half. Anytime the dolphins choose to interact with us in the water is a privilege and in this particular encounter, they seemed to want us to play their game with them. We happily obliged.

## Research Assistant, Cassie Rusche

Cassie grew up in Cincinnati, Ohio playing soccer and taking frequent trips to the nearby zoo, which fostered her love of animals. She attended Northern Kentucky University and majored

in biology as a pre-pharmacy student. However, after just a few short months and also working in a pharmacy, she realized it was not for her. Eventually, she discovered that her real passion was understanding animal behavior. After graduating NKU, Cassie moved to South Florida to work under Dr. Denise Herzing, an affiliate professor with Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton. For her thesis work, she studied aggression.

### What about animal behavior interests you?

I've always loved animals and behavior is interesting because you're trying to figure out why animals are doing something. When you study behavior, you often uncover more questions to answer than you started out with!

### What are some of your responsibilities?

During the summer, I'm living out on our research vessel in the Bahamas. I get up early to make sure all the gear is ready, put on my sunscreen, and change into a bathing suit so I'm ready to go. Throughout the day, I'm on rotating shifts of 'Dolphin Watch'. When we find dolphins, I'm in the water taking photo identification shots of the animals or using a video camera to record underwater behavior and vocalizations. At the end of the day, we review and log video from the day. I work with other graduate students or interns to label all the photographs, identify dolphins, and enter data.

In the winter months, I'm managing the database and giving talks about our work to local schools and nature centers.

### Do you have a favorite memory with the dolphins?

Yes. One time a young female, named Nova, came up to me. She's always been very curious and playful. She swam right in front of me so we were both facing the same direction. Then we played this game of peek-a-boo. I'd pop my head to the right to look at her, and she'd tilt her body to look back at me. Then, I'd pop my head to the left, and she'd shift her body to look at

me that way. Whenever I see her she hangs vertically in the water column in front of me, checking me out. She's just a fun dolphin.

### What do you recommend for high school or college students who want to get into marine biology research?

Get research experience as an undergraduate to figure out what about a certain animal interests you. What kinds of questions do you want to answer? Do you want to work in a lab with a microscope or work out in the field? It's also important to do well in school, and have organizational skills, as well as being detail-oriented and observant. If you want to get into the marine field, I suggest having strong swimming and snorkeling skills. I couldn't do this job if I wasn't comfortable in the water.

## Executive Assistant, Melissa Infante

Melissa grew up in South Florida and always had a passion for the outdoors and animals, spending much of her days either underwater or on horseback. In 2015, she was looking for a career change and wanted something with a sense of purpose. She saw the ad for an executive assistant position and decided to apply.

### Can you summarize your role with the project?

I do administrative tasks, such as accounts receivable and payable, record donations and memberships, track inventory, perform website updates and analytics, conduct all of the regulatory business compliance tasks and provide clerical support for the rest of the team. I've implemented new things like e-newsletters, community events, streamlined the sign-up procedure for trips, continually tweak our online and community presence, and I have fun with new ideas for merchandise (my favorite are tumblers and tanks!).

### Describe your duties during the field season and off-season?

In the off-season, I line up local talks for Cassie and we attend local community events.



MELISSA INFANTE  
Executive Assistant

(continued on page 10)

## Meet the Team *from page 9*

I organize and prepare our fall newsletter, annual report, and prompt end of year giving. Then I start preparing for our big annual fundraiser event, Wild Ocean Science. For the field season I coordinate getting our 50+ passengers and interns onboard for the summer. I also maintain each trip's manifests, adhering to the USCS, CBP, and The Bahamas' requirements for each trip.

### ***For your role, what do you think are valuable skills?***

My past work experience has been with larger corporations and I'm lucky to have had great mentors. I think what helps me the most is having considerable office experience and can stay organized and resolve problems, be versatile, proficient, and an overall hard worker.

### ***What is something about your job that people might not realize?***

I didn't realize how challenging the nonprofit sector can be. I am SO grateful for each and every one of our supporters!!

### ***Do you have a favorite experience?***

I loved watching the Lamda story

develop. One of the dolphins in our study group was stranded, rescued and rehabilitated and then released back into the wild. We were part of getting him back near his pod when he was released. It was a happy ending for that animal and it truly illustrates the value of long-term scientific research.

### ***A lot of people want to get involved with ocean science and conservation but don't necessarily want to be a scientist. What would you say to them?***

A great way to make connections and gain experience is to volunteer your time towards something you're passionate about. Our Community Advisory Board, Event Committee, and Board of Directors aren't scientists yet they play a vital role in the project.

### ***What's something you do to help the ocean?***

My small daily routine to keep the ocean beautiful and clean is going for a quick swim in the ocean before heading to the office. There is no better way to start the day. Plus, I pick up garbage while I'm out there and rarely come out empty-handed. After a storm or windy weather, I often end up collecting more garbage from the ocean floor than I can carry.



Pictured here are two pregnant spotted dolphins in the fused colorphase.



Founder and Director, Dr. Denise Herzing, records the underwater behavior and sounds of a mottled female spotted dolphin, Tristan.



Kiwi, a female spotted dolphin, emitting bubbles. When the dolphins emit bubbles, it can be a sign that the individual is vocalizing.





# GRADUATE STUDENT COLLABORATORS

The pandemic has caused a lot of changes to our normal routines—including socially distanced graduations. This May, I spent my master's graduation not with my classmates at the University of Colorado, but with the team on R/V Stenella. I have worked as a long term intern, graduate student, and field assistant with the Wild Dolphin Project for the past four years. It was exciting to celebrate this milestone onboard with the crew, my "at sea" family.

You've probably read about the mass emigration event that occurred in 2013, when most of the spotted dolphins from Little Bahama Bank (LBB) emigrated south to Bimini, where there was already a group of resident dolphins. The emigration served as the basis for my research. Using ArcGIS and the Geospatial Modeling environment, my goal was to determine if there were significant size differences in immigrant dolphin (those who moved from LBB) and resident dolphin home ranges in Bimini and to compare behavior frequencies and habitat characteristics of the immigrants and residents.

My results showed that immigrant dolphins maintained significantly larger individual home ranges in Bimini than the residents, in what seemed to be overall lower quality habitat. The immigrants faced increased aggression and decreased foraging in mixed encounters with residents, while there was an increase in courtship behavior—illustrating that there are both costs and benefits that come along with emigration. To our knowledge, this is the first cetacean study of its kind to analyze changes in immigrant home range characteristics and use following a climate-driven displacement. To

learn more, check out the WDP blog post, "New Research Alert! Shifting Home Ranges in Spotted Dolphins," and be on the lookout for our scientific publication!

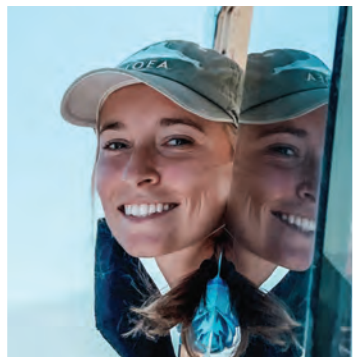
**Brittini Hill**

Recent Graduate, Field Assistant



PHOTO: TYLER HAZELWOOD

Brittini Hill swimming along a reef in the Bahamas.



I can't believe It's been eight years since I first stepped aboard the

R/V Stenella. First as an intern, then as a field assistant, and now as a graduate student collaborator. Working with WDP has launched me along my career path in marine mammal science. These days, I'm a MSc student in the Marine Mammal Research Program at the University of Hawaii at Manoa on the island of Oahu (I'm still pinching myself). I'm working with Dr. Lars Bejder to study the population abundance and demography of Hawaiian spinner dolphins off the western coast of the island. This work allows me to implement the drone pilot skills I developed while

at sea on Stenella. I utilize these skills while flying over groups of spinner dolphins to measure how long each dolphin is using a method called photogrammetry. These measurements allow me to estimate the age structure, and in turn, the population health status of this spinner dolphin group.

I'm also excited that my work on Oahu translates to the Bahamas. Continuing my collaboration with WDP, I will be collecting data over the next few years to see if we can estimate the age of Atlantic spotted dolphins based on their "spottedness" visible in drone

imagery. Since we know the ages of so many animals in the population at our Bahamian study site, this is a great way to ground truth this research methodology – in the future we might use the same methods to study the age structure of other populations of whales and dolphins which change color as they age. There are a few different species that this may be possible with in addition to Atlantic spotted dolphins, such as pantropical spotted dolphins, Risso's dolphins, and even narwhals!

**Liah McPherson**

Graduate Student, Field Assistant

# FILM AWARDS ANNOUNCEMENT

Understanding language is a major obstacle in recognizing the diversity of intelligence across species on Earth. Do other species besides humans have language? How would we recognize a nonhuman language if it existed? And how might we begin to not only assess the structure and patterns of signals, but interpret the meaning of nonhuman communication signals?

The Wild Dolphin Project seeks to explore the potential linguistic richness in the vocalizations of dolphins. This would represent nothing less than a

paradigm shift in the way we understand diverse intelligence.

"Searching for Language in Dolphins", a film by Rebel Media Productions in association with Long Story Short Media, was selected as a finalist at Jackson Wild, in 2 categories: Animal Behavior and Science in Nature.

This film is supported by a generous grant from the Templeton World Charity Foundation. The video is part of the "Stories of Impact" series. Learn more here: [storiesofimpact.org](https://storiesofimpact.org). [www.jacksonwild.org/2021-media-awards](https://www.jacksonwild.org/2021-media-awards)

## Animal Behavior - Short Form

sponsored by: [QRF University](https://www.qrf.university.edu/)

warded to the program (17 minutes in runtime or less) that most effectively explores animal behavior in an innovative and illuminating way.



**WINNER**

**Born Pregnant: Aphids Invade with an Onslaught of Clones | Deep Look**

KQED, PBS Digital Studios



**Searching for Language in Dolphins**

Rebel Media Productions in association with Long Story Short Media. Supported by a generous grant from the Templeton World Charity Foundation



**Tadpoles: The Big Little Migration**

A Maxwell Hohn Production with SeapoolTV





## WILD OCEAN SCIENCE



**DR. MATTHIAS  
HOFFMANN-KUHNT**



**CASSIE RUSCHE  
& DREW MAYER**



**DR. THAD STARNER**



**DR. DENISE HERZING**



**LIAH MCPHERSON**



**DR. CINDY ELLISER**



**DR. MICHELLE GREEN**



**BRITTINI HILL**



**MILES O'BRIEN**

### *Wild Ocean Science went virtual in 2021. What is in store for 2022?*

The spring event focused on Technology and looked at the latest research methods implemented to help “Crack the Code” of dolphin communication by focusing on the use of technology in scientific fieldwork. The event started with an overview of the Wild Dolphin Project’s history and the progress made during the past 35+ years, then exclusive presentations from colleagues examined the future direction of the latest technology. In-depth presentations from colleagues and collaborators included Research Assistant, Cassie Rusche, explaining the new technology used to help find dolphins after 2013’s “Big Move”. Special guest, Drew Mayer, showcased the 360 camera illustrating new perspectives gained from this technology. Dr. Matthias Hoffmann-Kuhnt explained how a uniquely designed underwater mobile triangulation device, A.S.P.O.D., tracks and localizes dolphin vocalizations aiding in our understanding of dolphin communication. Dr. Thad Starner and Dr. Denise Herzing gave an update on two initiatives. Using machine learning algorithms to discover patterns in dolphin sounds and utilizing an underwater computer interface which explores two-way communication between dolphins and the researchers.

The fall event focused on Biology. WDP gave an update of the 2021 field season followed by exclusive presentations examining the many avenues in which studying biology helps us learn more about the animals in the wild. Dr. Michelle Green detailed how DNA hidden in dolphin

fecal samples tells the tale of genetic relationships among the dolphins. Recent graduate, Brittini Hill, discussed her master’s thesis research on immigrant dolphins and their changing home range characteristics and use. Dr. Cindy Elliser explained how the social relationships of the dolphins have changed since the initial displacement event and how assimilation into a new community takes time. Lastly, what can we learn about dolphins from the air? Liah McPherson explained how drones are transforming marine mammal science, from behavioral studies in the Bahamas to population health assessments in Hawaii.

Thanks to special guest host, Miles O’Brien, PBS NewsHour Correspondence and independent American broadcast journalist specializing in science, technology, and aerospace for hosting our Wild Ocean Science events.

We’d like to give a well deserved round of applause to our Wild Ocean Science volunteers: Liam Groth, Rita Gohlke, Lori Saar, and Brian Rusche. This event would not be possible without their dedication and support!

We are excited to think through the logistics of a hybrid event in the spring of 2022, by offering a live event for those that can join us in-person as well as a virtual experience for those attending through the ether. Mark your calendar to save the date for Saturday, March 26, 2022. You can follow our Wild Ocean Science page for updates and to view information from past events:

[www.wilddolphinproject.org/  
media/wild-ocean-science/](http://www.wilddolphinproject.org/media/wild-ocean-science/)

**Melissa Infante**  
Events Coordinator  
[wildoceanscience@  
wilddolphinproject.org](mailto:wildoceanscience@wilddolphinproject.org)



# WDP MERCHANDISE

Get your WDP merchandise in time for the holidays! Shipping is available worldwide. T-shirts, tank tops, Stenella sun shirts, rash guards, tumblers, books and more! Start your shopping here: <http://www.wilddolphinproject.org/store/>



## "In Their World" Tumblers

20 oz Halcyon "In Their World...On Their Terms" tumbler. Featuring "Violet", a dolphin from our study area, photographed by Ruth Petzold. Rubberized, soft-touch feel keeps liquids cold for up to 24 hours, keeps liquids warm for up to 12 hours. Push-on, clear acrylic, sip through lid.



## Book: The Wild Dolphin Project

"The Wild Dolphin Project: Long-Term Research of Atlantic Spotted Dolphins in the Bahamas" - written by Dr. Denise L. Herzing (2002) With 60+ pages of information about dolphin life, and stunning full-color photography, this book gives a wonderful overview of Dr. Herzing's 25 years of researching dolphins in the wild.



## Speckled Dolphin Tank

Color: Tahiti Blue. Available sizes: XS, M, L, Fabric: 60% combed ring-spun cotton/40% polyester lightweight jersey. Fabric laundered for reduced shrinkage. Features: Self-fabric binding on neck and armholes, tear-away label. This t-shirt features a juvenile dolphin from our study group in the "speckled" age class.



## Sun Shirt - Stenella

Available sizes: XS, S, M, L, XL. These long-sleeve sunshirts show your support of The Wild Dolphin Project's Research Vessel, Stenella. Available in arctic blue only. The solar performance long sleeve offers superior sun protection and performance qualities. Featuring up to UPF +50 solar protection, the solar performance long sleeve is lightweight, comfortable, and sure to keep the sun's rays from penetrating through to your skin. This fabric is powered by PURE-tech™ moisture wicking technology.



## Book: Dolphin Diaries

Dolphin Diaries: My 25 years with Spotted Dolphins in the Bahamas, by Denise L. Herzing, Ph.D. "Every dolphin is someone's mother, brother, or friend. I wish them to be always in their world, on their terms, where they belong." This is an in-depth look at Dr. Herzing's career as a dolphin researcher, covering all aspects of her ongoing work.



## Two-Toned Dolphins V-neck Tee

Color: Tahiti Blue. Available sizes: XS, S, M, L, XL, 2XL Fabric: 100% combed ring-spun cotton fine jersey fabric laundered for reduced shrinkage. Features: 1x1 baby rib-knit set in collar, tear-away label, side-seamed. This t-shirt features a pair of dolphins in the "two-tone" age class.



# Ways to Support our Research



venmo

## Venmo

Use Venmo as your digital wallet to safely and securely support The Wild Dolphin Project. Scan the QR code or search "Wild Dolphin Project" in the app to make a contribution using your mobile device.



## Benevity

Employees can make a one-time or recurring donation to the causes they care most about. Employers can increase impact with a corporate match. Rest assured your donations will get where they're supposed to go — in the most efficient, cost-effective way possible.



## Facebook fundraising

Facebook fundraisers make it easy to support causes that are important to you and they charge no fees for donations made to nonprofits.



## Stock

Make a bigger impact by donating long-term appreciated securities, including stock, bonds, and mutual funds, directly to WDP. Compared with donating cash, or selling your appreciated securities and contributing the after-tax proceeds, you may be able to automatically increase your gift and your tax deduction. Download the form from our website or call our office for account information.



## Amazon

We also have a wishlist on Amazon if you shop there. Go to amazon in your browser and navigate to "accounts and lists". Click on "find a list or registry" and search Wild Dolphin Project. Amazon smile will donate .5% of eligible purchases to WDP at no extra cost to you and no fees for us. Win win! Shop smile. amazon.com and select WDP.

## WDP wishlists

Consider browsing our wishlist for other ways to support our research. From computer equipment to airline miles, iPads to GoPro batteries, deck paint to sun awnings, there is a variety of in-kind donations that would truly help us out.



[www.wilddolphinproject.org/donate/wish-list/](http://www.wilddolphinproject.org/donate/wish-list/)

## Memberships

As a member of the Wild Dolphin Project you get a free coffee table book from Dr. Denise Herzing, a newsletter, and first priority when signing up for summer trips! Whether you are looking to possibly participate onboard R/V Stenella or just stay updated on the project, our research, and upcoming events, a WDP membership will benefit you.

**NEONATE** – \$35 - WDP Book

**TWO TONE** – \$75 - WDP Book & T-shirt

**SPECKLED** – \$250 - WDP Book & T-shirt, invites for Florida work day trips

**MOTTLED** – \$500 - WDP Book & T-shirt, invites for Florida research day trips, meet and greet with project updates

**FUSED** – \$1,000-WDP Book & T-shirt, invites for Florida research day trips, meet and greet with project updates, intracoastal day trip on R/V Stenella

**STEWARD** – \$2,500 - WDP Book & T-shirt, meet and greet with project updates, invites for Florida research day trips, intracoastal day trip for 2 on R/V Stenella

**AMBASSADOR** – \$5,000 - WDP Book & T-shirt, meet and greet with project updates, invites for Florida research day trips, intracoastal day trip for 4 on R/V Stenella

**GENERATION** – \$10,000 - WDP Book & T-shirt, invites for Florida research trips, meet and greet with project updates, invites for Florida research day trips, intracoastal day trip for up to 6 on R/V Stenella

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**CORPORATE GIVING** allows us to recognize your support both in our newsletter and on our website with a click through feature from your company logo.

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**Top Sponsor** - \$5,000 - recognition in newsletter and website, receive a t-shirt, invited to join Florida workdays and meet and greets with project updates, and an Intracoastal day trip aboard R/V Stenella.



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Bethany Augliere,  
**Research Associate**

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## Instagram:

[www.instagram.com/  
WildDolphinProject](https://www.instagram.com/WildDolphinProject)

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## The Wild Dolphin Project

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The Wild  
Dolphin  
PROJECT



Research, Education, Conservation  
*A nonprofit organization*

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US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
WEST PALM BCH FL  
PERMIT NO. 941

Help protect the environment.

**RE** DUCE  
USE  
CYCLE  
THINK  
EACH OUT

Practice the 5 R's

Start by recycling this newsletter, give it to a friend!

## 2022 Individual Membership

All new/renewing members will receive a complimentary coffee table book, newsletter, and first priority when signing up for trips!

- ☐ \$35 ..... Neonate membership
- ☐ \$75 ..... Two-toned membership
- ☐ \$250 ..... Speckled membership
- ☐ \$500 ..... Mottled membership
- ☐ \$1,000 ..... Fused membership
- ☐ \$2,500 ..... Steward membership
- ☐ \$5,000 ..... Ambassador membership
- ☐ \$10,000+ ..... Generation membership
- ☐ other \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Yes, please send me my membership gifts

(optional) I'd like to make this donation:

- ☐ On behalf of \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ In memory of \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Please send acknowledgement of this gift to: \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Please check here if you wish to receive future newsletters by email only

## 2022 Corporate Membership

You can also become a member online! Visit [www.wilddolphinproject.org](http://www.wilddolphinproject.org) and click on "Donate/Support WDP" to sign up as a new/renewing member.

- ☐ \$100 ..... Corporate supporter
- ☐ \$250 ..... Corporate sponsor
- ☐ \$500 ..... Corporate patron
- ☐ \$1,000 ..... Corporate benefactor
- ☐ \$5,000+ ..... Corporate top sponsor

As a WDP corporate partner you will:

- be recognized in the newsletter
- be recognized on WDP's website (company logo and website link included)

## Contact Information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Company: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Country: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone/Ext: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

### METHOD OF PAYMENT:

- ☐ Check (made out payable to the Wild Dolphin Project)

Credit Card: ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Discover ☐ American Express

### CREDIT CARD INFORMATION:

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
CVW Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip Code: (associated w/ credit card) \_\_\_\_\_

### MEMBERSHIP AUTO-RENEWAL:

- ☐ Check here if you would like us to automatically renew your checked membership level each year.

- By checking above, you are allowing us to charge your credit card on file for renewing your membership each year and will provide updated card information should it change.
- If you would like to increase your membership level in the future, please notify us before your membership renewal by emailing [info@wilddolphinproject.org](mailto:info@wilddolphinproject.org).

Donors (names only) will be published in our newsletters, annual reports, etc. If you would like your donation to remain anonymous, please check here: ☐

You can also become a member online! Visit [www.wilddolphinproject.org](http://www.wilddolphinproject.org) and click on "Become a Member / Donate Today" to sign up as a new/renewing member.

Please make checks payable to **The Wild Dolphin Project** and send with this form to P.O. Box 8436, Jupiter, Florida 33468. All donations are tax deductible as allowed by law.